



Deaf Services Commission of Iowa

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**The Iowa Department of Human
Rights brings strength to our rich
Iowa heritage.**

**We eliminate cultural and economic
barriers, and work to
empower Iowans.**

We are the voice for many.

**Iowa Department of Human Rights
WE GROW OPPORTUNITY.**



The Deaf Services Commission of Iowa

The motivation and mission of the *Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI)* is to serve, represent and provide a greater understanding of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals across the state.

2016—2020 Strategic Focus

Language & assistance access, information and education are critical to the success of Iowa's Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens.

As the Commission advances its agenda over the next four years, emphasis on these key areas will ensure improvement in both the economic and social lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Iowans.

DSCI Strategic Initiatives



Near-Term

Increase compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in public facilities in Iowa.

1. Work with the Iowa Department of Administrative Services and other relevant state agencies to perform an audit of existing compliance with ADA for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
2. Collaborate with the Department of Public Safety and other organizations to add hearing assistive technology to the building code adopted by the State of Iowa.

Establish “Iowa Hearing Loss Awareness Week” to enhance awareness about adult onset hearing loss.

Enhance the availability of information on the Department of Human Rights website and through other media to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

1. Increase access to information and education regarding hearing assistive technology

Mid-Term

Establish a coalition to draft, support and pass legislation that requires hearing instrument specialists to provide full information about all available assistive technologies at the point of service.

Establish a legal means for an advocate to be available to members of the Deaf community in difficult legal situations.

Increase communication and service access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

1. Create a directory of service providers that are accessible to, and provide services for, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
2. Add an American Sign Language interpreter to the Deaf Services Commission.
3. Increase the availability of real time captioning for late-deafened adults.
4. Increase assistance to the elderly Deaf community.
5. Increase availability of accessible housing for the Deaf/Blind.

Long-Term

Establish a coalition to draft, support and pass legislation that mandates insurance companies to provide health insurance for hearing aids and other hearing-related assistive technology.

Increase the number and availability of interpreters for the Deaf.

1. Create a *Teach for America*-type program for students majoring in American Sign Language interpreting to provide tuition assistance.
2. Create an American Sign Language Interpreter major within Iowa’s universities and community colleges.
3. Increase funding for the use of interpreters across the state.
4. Increase the interpreter compensation fund at the Department of Human Rights to \$10,000.

Slightly more than 2% of Iowa’s population is Deaf. An estimated 30% of Iowans are Hard of Hearing.

